



VOLUME 57 ISSUE 10

October 2007

QRP AFIELD 2007 Ute Creek Trail

Well, QRP Afield 2007 has come and gone. As is customary, our merry little band assembled on Friday afternoon to begin the journey to our campsite for this year's event. Dave NKØE, John NØHJ, and Steve NØMHQ made up our group this year. Steve NØTU, a regular for these events, was enjoying retired life by hitting the trail for a five-day venture with his goats and his brother-in-law and couldn't join us this year. Our destination was once again along the Ute Creek Trail in the Lost Creek Wilderness west of Colorado Springs. This area is absolutely perfect for such adventures. It's easily accessible, not far from water, but yet secluded and sparsely



John NØHJ & Steve NØMHQ on the trail.

traveled. We can reach the trailhead in an hour and a half from Colorado Springs, the roads to the trailhead are good, and we can reach our campsite in less than an hour's hike from the trailhead. Yet, we have never seen another hiker near our

campsite (and I've camped in this area at least eight times over the years).

We marshaled the troops and left Colorado Springs by 1500, reaching the trailhead around 1630 after stopping in Woodland Park for a bite to eat. The trailhead was nearly empty, and we passed a couple of hikers with a dog on our way up--they undoubtedly accounted for the only other vehicle at the trailhead. The sky looked a little bit ominous as we hiked, and we heard some far-off thunder rumbles, but that didn't detract from the absolutely perfect conditions for the weekend. We reached our campsite in about an hour's time, and after dropping our packs and scouting the area, we each set up our shelters and began relaxing for the weekend. By the time dinner was finished, the sun had set and we were losing our light quickly. This, of course, meant that it was time to sit back, enjoy the company, and admire the evening sky as the stars poked through between the clouds. It was an absolute perfect evening--little wind, moderate temperatures (upper 40s and low 50s).

Saturday morning I crawled out of my tent expecting to be greeted by a brisk morning with chilly temperatures, but I was mildly surprised; it was already nearly 50 degrees. Down came the food bag from its place above the reach of bears, and after breakfast and morning rituals it was time to get on the air. I packed fairly lightly for this event: just my ATS-II with 20-meter band module, and an inverted Y antenna for 20-meter. John had his ATS-III with tuner that he packaged into a Batman tin, using (I think) a random wire for an antenna. Steve brought along his SST and inverted Y for 20 meters, but I don't think it ever made it out of his pack (sometimes, it's nice to

Cont'd...

QRP Afield . . .

just enjoy the place and the moment and not worry about trying to work contacts).

I hung my inverted Y in the tree, connected up my ATS-II, flipped the switch to turn it on, and heard . . . nothing. Nada. The ATS-II announces its name in CW when you turn it



Saturday morning breakfast

on, but this time I didn't hear anything. The rig wasn't working. Rats.

It was then that I determined that the rig works much better if you plug the headphones into the headphone jack instead of the paddle jack. D'oh!!! But 20 meters was pretty quiet at 0900 MDT. I heard only one or two very faint QRP stations. I worked WN1GIV not long after 0900 but pickings were pretty slim after that so I decided to start packing up some of my gear while I waited for the band to wake up. John had the same experience with his rig and antenna so I figured it wasn't just me. Anyway, off and on through the day we'd get on the air, work a contact or two, and then attend to other activities or simply enjoy being out in the woods.

We'd pretty much reached our limit as 1400 rolled around (I worked a grand total of six stations), so we packed up our gear and headed back to the trailhead and the drive back to town. Despite the sparse band conditions for QRP Afield, we all agreed that it was an excellent and thoroughly enjoyable weekend! For us, QRP

Afield is as much an excuse to get our backpacking gear out as it is a radio event, so it's a great time, good bands or bad.

You can see a few pictures of our adventure at <http://pictures.eksfiles.net/2007-09-14/>

David Ek NKØE

DITS & BITS

Current Rocky Mountain Vice Director Division Brian Milesosky, N5ZGT, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, is running for Director against Jeff Ryan, K0RM, of Westminster, Colorado. Current Director Warren G. "Rev" Morton, WS7W, of Casper, Wyoming, is not seeking re-election. Vice Director candidates for the Rocky Mountain Division are Dwayne Allen, WY7FD, of Devil's Tower, Wyoming, and Chris Howard, W0EP, of Fort Collins, Colorado.

Ballots will be sent to all full members of the League in that Division who are of good standing as of September 10, 2007 (you must be a licensed radio amateur to be a full member). The ballots will be mailed not later than October 1, 2007 and, to be valid, must be received at ARRL HQ by 1200 Eastern Time on Friday, November 16, 2007.

Jeff Ryan's election page:
<http://www.k0rm.net/>

Chris Howard's election page:
<http://rockymtndivisionelection.blogspot.com/>

Brian Milesosky & Dwayne Allen's page:
<http://www.voterockymountain.org/>

*73 and make sure to vote,
Doug Nielsen N7LEM*



Colorado QSO Party!

1200Z July 15—0400Z July 16, 2007

www.ppraa.org/coqp



Below are the final scores, by category, for the 2007 Colorado QSO Party. High score was logged by Michael Condon NE4S with 72,216 points, followed closely by John Rado KØIZ with

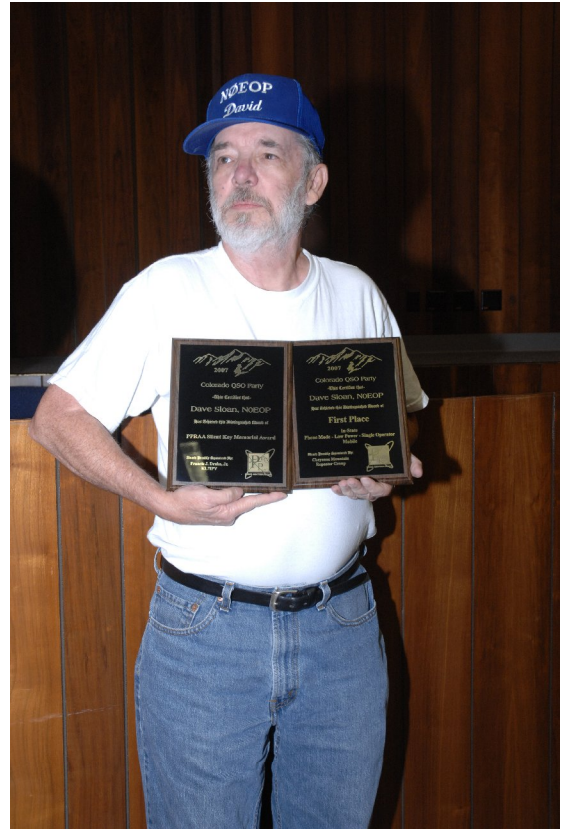
70,890 points. Congratulations to them and to everyone for their fine effort.

Included in the listing is the placement in each category. At the end of the listing are the winners of the Special Categories. Congratulations to all the winners.

For a full listing of all the winners go to:

<http://ppraa.org/coqp/results2007.php>

And now for a few pictures:



Phone - Low Power - Single-Op – Mobile
PPRAA Silent Key Memorial Award

Dave Sloan NØOEP



Phone – School Mike Anderson WV7T



Phone - Low Power - Multi-Single/Single Op
Doug Nielsen N7LEM

Jeff Ryan, KØRM

for

ARRL Rocky Mountain

Division Director

www.kØrm.net

BRAGGING RIGHTS

*Dave Sloan NØEOP
For all your hard work on COQP*



Dave NØEOP, Hammy, and Jim ABØUK

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE EXAMINATIONS

The PPRAA/VE team holds testing sessions at 9 AM at the Colorado Technical University, 4435 North Chestnut (just west of I-25 and just south of Garden of the Gods Rd).

Exam fee: \$14.00 for Elements 2, 3, and/or 4, payable to ARRL/VEC.
No same-day retakes of same element. Walk-ins allowed; pre-registration not necessary.

BRING: Photo ID, original and copy of valid ham license and/or valid CSCE, and FRN for licensed hams.

Contact:

Dennis Major NØABC at 719-531-6774 or [email](mailto:dennis@ppraa.org)

Online: ppraa.org or arrl.org.

Mark your calendars:

Oct. 13, Dec. 8

SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS

Oct 13, 1330Z-2030Z, Yorktown, VA.
Williamsburg Area Amateur Radio Club, K4RC.
Special Event related to Yorktown Battlefield, VA. 18.15 14.25 7.261. QSL. Russell Chandler, KU4RP, 132 Druid Dr, Williamsburg, VA 23185.
Certificate for working three WAARC special events, including Jamestown, Colonial Williamsburg and Yorktown. www.qsl.net/waarc

Oct 19-Oct 21, 1400Z-2359Z, Garland, TX.
Garland Amateur Radio Club, K5QHD. GARC K5QHD celebrating 50th anniversary. 21.295 14.245 7.195 3.820. QSL. K5QHD, 1027-B West Austin St, Garland, TX 75040. www.k5qhd.org

Oct 20, 1300Z-1730Z, Randleman, NC. Tri-County Amateur Radio Club, NC4AR. 19th Annual NASCAR Day Festival. 14.270 7.268. Certificate. NC4AR, PO Box 747, Trinity, NC 27370.

Oct 20, 1600Z-2300Z, San Diego, CA. USS Midway CV-41 COMEDTRA, NI6IW. First launch and recovery of a/c on USS Langley CV-1. 14.325 7.260. QSL USS Midway CV-41 Museum 910 North Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA 92101. w9bq@aol.com

Oct 20-Oct 21, 1600Z-0500Z, Woodland, CA. Yolo District Boy Scouts, W6Y. Jamboree on the Air, 100th Anniversary of World Scouting. 14.290 7.190 IRLP 5750 EL 107315. QSL. Ragsdale, K6KN, PO Box 1500, Woodland, CA 95776. yolobsa.editme.com/JOTA

Oct 20-Nov 3, 1200Z-2300Z, Honeoye, NY. Ontario County (NY) RACES, K2S. Space Shuttle Mission STS-120 commanded by Col Pam Melroy. 18.155 14.265 7.265. QSL. Norm Schrader, 6009 Pine Haven La, Honeoye, NY 14471. wb2ggm@yahoo.com

PPRAA BOARD MEETING MINUTES September 17, 2007



Attendees: Mike KØMLA and Rhoda, Susan KCØSYA, Jim ABØUK, Dan ACØCC, Doug N7LEM, and Christopher NC6T.

President Mike KØMLA called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM at the Stetson Hills Police Station.

The August Board Meeting minutes were approved as printed in the Zero Beat. (Motioned/seconded by Susan KCØSYA/Christopher NC6T.)

Reports:

Treasurer's Report – Dan ACØCC Treasurer: Beginning balance \$13,114.40, income \$35.67, expenses (\$1,671.47), net loss (\$1,635.80), ending balance \$11,478.60 as of 9/11/07. Total COQP funds remaining in escrow is \$430.00. Quarterly raffle report due to State end of October.

Unfinished Business:

Elections – Doug N7LEM is the chairperson for the election committee. Two volunteers so far to run for open board positions. Going to send another reminder out on the reflector weekly until next meeting.

Christmas Party – Will be at north Golden Corral this year (on Woodmen Rd, just west of Powers). Will be held on Wednesday Dec. 12, 2007 6:00pm to 9:00pm. Attendees need to let cashier know that they are there for the PPRAA party and a 15% gratuity will be automatically added to their bill. Great door prizes again this year, lots to go around.

New Business:

Transition to new board for 2008 – Any officers not continuing in their position next year, be sure

everything is in order for incoming officer to take over in October after the election.

Around the Table:

Mike KØMLA – Voiced his appreciation for everyone's hard work throughout the year and how much he's enjoyed working with everyone as President.

Jim ABØUK – QSO Party – \$187.30 for postage and \$149.99 for remaining expenses reimbursed to Jim ABØUK. Expenses came in well under projected numbers. Projection of costs for next year being worked on, as well as securing plaque sponsors for 2008. Updated rules may be posted on website by end of September or early October. Website is at www.ppraa.org/coqp.

Mike WV7T – Several books in tech library that haven't been checked out in 2-3 years, will save them to sell at next year's megafest. Approved that we use same supplier as the QSO Party to make the plaques for field day, one for the fire station, one for our main sponsor, Tom WØTMH, and approved up to \$60 for the expense (motioned/seconded by Mike WV7T/Christopher NC6T).

Next newsletter submission deadline is September 25, 2007.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 PM.

Next PPRAA Board meeting: October 15, 2007 at the Stetson Hills Police Station on Tutt, directions available on PPRAA website.

Submitted by:

*Susan Allison KCØSYA
PPRAA Secretary*

PPRAA CLUB MEETING MINUTES

September 12, 2007

President Mike KØMLA called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM at the El Paso County Health Department Auditorium, followed by introductions around the room.

Treasurer's Report – Dan ACØCC Treasurer: Beginning balance \$13,114.40, income \$35.67, expenses \$1,671.47, net loss \$1,635.80, ending balance \$11,478.60 as of 9/11/07. (Total COQP funds remaining in escrow is \$430.00.)

Approval of Minutes - The August Club Meeting minutes were approved as printed in the Zero Beat (with the exception of correcting that Hammy went to Jim ABØUK). (Motioned/seconded by Susan KCØSYA/Dennis N0ABC.)

Committee Reports:

Technical Education – Gen/tech classes still on hold. Classes should restart in the fall and workshops will also be available. More information to come.

VE Testing – August VE session - 8 candidates, 6 passed.

Unfinished Business:

Christmas Party – Golden Corral at Woodmen and Powers is reserved for the second Wednesday of December (12/12/07) from 6pm-9pm. Let cashier know you are there for the PPRAA party and they will add an automatic 15% gratuity to the bill. There will be many door prizes including four Wal-mart gift cards in the amounts of \$100, \$50, and two \$25's. Club contest awards for the quarter will also be handed out.

Club Elections – one volunteer nominee so far, need several more, please consider running for a position.

New Business:

Mike (WV7T) has a Sand Dunes trip planned next summer, might do on a contest weekend. Will share more details later.

Hammy Award – awarded to Dave NØEOP, for all his work on the COQP.

Program – COQP results (also available on the website)

Next newsletter submission deadline is September 25, 2007.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM.

Next PPRAA club meeting: October 10, 2007 at 7:00pm.

Submitted by:

Susan Allison KCØSYA

PPRAA Secretary

**Jess Miley
KØTAA**

719 W. 7th, Florence, CO 81226
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NONPROFIT STATUS

The PPRAA is a federal 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and welcomes all contributions. Your contributions or donations may be tax-deductible.

PPRAA PRESIDENT'S CORNER



To the PPRAA,

This is my last message as the President of the PPRAA and I wanted to take this opportunity to get on a soapbox for a little while about the club.

The events that we host each year such as Field Day, the MegaFest, the Club Picnic and the Christmas party each take time and effort to plan, organize and run. This year, we also added the Colorado QSO Party to the list. Without more volunteers, I am concerned that the club will not be able to host these events in the future.

For example, I was about one week away from calling off the MegaFest if Rob N7LV hadn't stepped up to take charge. Field Day, the Club Picnic, and the Christmas party are all being run by people who are also officers of the club. The QSO party took the efforts of many people and for this event to continue, it will take a lot of time as well. It seems to me that the same group of people, i.e. the board for the most part, is the only group of people willing to help the club with these types of events. There are only so many things that this small percentage of club members can do each year without becoming frustrated.

One of the best parts of ham radio is its volunteerism! We are the first ones to help in times of emergency, the first ones to help a fellow ham in need. Those times when I have asked for volunteers to help the club with an event, the sound of the crickets chirping is deafening.

The PPRAA is your club, not mine, not the board's. It is the membership who should decide the direction for the club and what events the club hosts in the future. The board and officers only know what your wishes are if you get involved. When the same people are the only ones that come to meetings or volunteer, they are the ones making all the decisions about what the club does. If the board is doing things that you approve, that's great! If the board isn't doing things that the

membership approves, it's even more important to get involved because unless we hear from you, the members, we don't know your opinions. Please volunteer for some aspect of an event to show your support.

I will now climb down from my soapbox and hope that some people will read this and become involved. I have enjoyed my time as the president and wish the club many more years supporting amateur radio in Colorado Springs. Please welcome the new board and new officers and consider stepping up to give them all a hand with running the club.

73,
Mike KØMLA
PPRAA President

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